

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 19, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 9, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Pandora Manufacturing Fire, Pandora, Ohio

On June 2, 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) responded to a request for assistance from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) regarding a fire at Pandora Manufacturing, Inc. (PMI), Pandora, Ohio. PMI is a packaging distributor and bottler for industrial and commercial chemicals. The fire resulted from an explosion on a process line and spread through the process line, laboratory, storage area, and offices. Due to the presence of large volumes of fuels and several hazardous materials, including cyanides, peroxides, and acids, the downwind portion of the village was evacuated until the fire could be suppressed. Several workers, first responders, and residents were treated for exposure to the fumes from the fire. U.S. EPA assisted local, State, and PMI officials with air monitoring and sampling, water runoff sampling, and technical assistance on containing the runoff from the fire fighting efforts. Approximately 750,000 gallons of water was used to put out the fire. Dams and air curtains were constructed in nearby Riley Creek to help contain material that had entered the creek. Storm sewers were plugged to prevent additional runoff from entering the creek and Vac Trucks were used to collect the material. The City of Ottawa was notified and the water intake was shutdown until the plume could be sampled and passed the

intakes. Approximately 250 residents were evacuated during the fire and were allowed to return the evening of June 2, 2006. U.S. EPA continued to provide assistance throughout the weekend as small fires continued to be suppressed, the runoff was isolated, and the plume was tracked in Riley Creek. No wildlife or fish community impacts have been observed.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)
Brian Kelly (734-692-7684)

Emergency Response, Enbridge Pipeline Break, Smiths Creek, Michigan

On May 31, 2006, U.S. EPA responded to a report of a pipeline break releasing 20 barrels of crude oil in Smiths Creek, Michigan. Enbridge, the pipeline operator, indicated that at approximately 5:40 a.m., a leak detection alarm went off at a remote monitoring location. The local fire department immediately responded and notified Enbridge Pipeline which shut down the line. The release originated from a pump in the station. The oil pooled inside the building migrated over the ground to a drainage ditch along Dove Road. The actual released material was approximately 100-200 gallons. Enbridge responded and began vacuuming up pooled oil and excavating impacted soils.

Due to the sandy nature of the subsurface soils the oil migrated laterally and the excavation continued for several days. Soil samples were collected to confirm the area clean. The ditch and area surrounding the station will be backfilled back to grade after results are received.

Contact: James Justice (734-692-7687)

Removal Completed, Warren Recycling Site, Warren, Ohio

U.S. EPA's removal program recently demobilized from the Warren Recycling site, Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio. The cleanup, initiated on April 25, 2005, was conducted to abate hydrogen sulfide releases from a bankrupt construction and demolition debris (C&DD) landfill that was severely affecting an adjacent residential neighborhood. This action consisted of: assessing the extent of hydrogen sulfide releases using U.S. EPA's Rapid Assessment Tool technology; consolidating loose debris and waste; installing a storm/surface water management system; constructing and operating a leachate treatment system; and, construction of an interim cap to support the storm water management system. Over 30,000 cubic yards of debris were consolidated and capped. Approximately 13 million gallons of leachate were removed, treated, and discharged to the local municipal sewer. Over

200,000 cubic yards of onsite clay was excavated and used to construct the cap and storm water management system. The storm water management system also includes a large drainage ditch that is approximately two-thirds of a mile in length. The cost of the project was just over \$4 million.

On May 23, 2006, with the support of the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA hosted a multi-agency public meeting to discuss the successes and challenges of U.S. EPA's cleanup and describe how the site will be transitioned to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the City of Warren Board of Health for oversight and future regulatory action. The response from the public at this meeting was largely favorable.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Removal Initiated, Little Scioto River Site, Marion, Ohio

U.S. EPA has initiated a time-critical removal action at the Little Scioto River site, Marion, Marion County, Ohio. This action consists of removing approximately 30,000 tons of severely contaminated sediment from the bottom of the Little Scioto River. Specifically, the cleanup will include construction of sheet-pile dams across the entire length of the river, utilizing high volume pumps to move the river water out of and around the newly formed "cells", and treatment & excavation of grossly contaminated river sediments. The contaminated material will then be transported to a drying pad for dewatering, then, transported to a landfill for final disposal. The project is slated for completion in early Fall 2006 and will cost approximately \$3 million.

This action is the second phase of this site. The original cleanup, under Oil Pollution Act authority and funding, was conducted in 2002 and included a half-mile cleanup of North Rockswale Ditch and a three-quarter-mile cleanup of the Little Scioto River. The source of the contamination was the Bakerwood Creosoting site, which was cleaned up by a separate Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action in 1999.

Following this action, three miles of the Little Scioto River will still need to be addressed. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) will lead efforts to assess the site and make recommendations.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Removal Initiated, St. Clair Shores PCB Cleanup, St. Clair Shores, Michigan

U.S. EPA has initiated a removal action at the St. Clair Shores polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) site. Following site setup, official removal actions began on May 30, 2006. U.S. EPA removal actions will include excavation of PCB-contaminated surface soils from residential yards and placing an impermeable liner inside a storm sewer to block PCBs from recontaminating a section of sewer system that empties into Lake St. Clair. The proposed liner would keep the identified PCBs from seeping into the sewer line until a more permanent remedy can be studied and implemented. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has agreed to score the site for possible inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) and has been actively working with U.S. EPA during the current removal action. U.S. EPA had conducted an earlier PCB cleanup and canal dredging in the area, but followup monitoring indicated the chemical compound was once again being carried to the lake. The recontamination prompted a lot of media and Congressional interest. U.S. EPA and MDEQ conducted a joint investigation and discovered a pool of PCBs had collected under a major road intersection in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and was contaminating the soil surrounding the utility lines. Unfortunately, the original source of the PCBs is still unknown. The liner should stop the contamination until money can be found to clean up the PCB pool sitting underneath the roads, although that project could take years to start.

Contact: Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

Bankruptcy Settlements and Trial, Various Eagle Picher Corporation Properties, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio

From March into June of 2006, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jon Gulch was involved in a joint U.S. EPA/Department of Justice (DOJ) project associated with bankruptcy proceedings for the Eagle Picher Corporation at various sites in U.S. EPA Region 5. Eagle Picher Corporation declared bankruptcy and was asked by DOJ to submit costs for environmental cleanup at seven sites in U.S. EPA Region 5 (Galena, Illinois; Urbana, Ohio; Sidney, Ohio; Hillsdale, Michigan (2 sites); Inkster, Michigan; and River Rouge, Michigan). After performing site visits and detailing the findings in an expert report, in collaboration with the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor and the various States, OSC Jon Gulch reviewed approximately 15,000 pages of documents provided to DOJ by Eagle Picher and provided cost estimates to remove the threats posed by each site. These expert reports were the basis of the U.S. EPA/DOJ negotiation to resolve

significant differences in scope of work and funding allocation prior to the trial. These negotiations resulted in settlements and agreements from Eagle Picher Corporation to allocate \$5.75 million for the cleanup at 5 sites (Galena, Illinois and all of the Michigan Sites). The two Ohio Sites went to trial and OSC Jon Gulch was deposed by Eagle Picher attorneys and provided expert testimony in the Cincinnati Federal Bankruptcy Court. An outcome on the funding for the Ohio Sites is pending a review of the proceedings by the Court.

Contacts: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)
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TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Fermi II Ingestion Pathway Exercise, Lansing, Michigan

On June 6-7, 2006, U.S. EPA Health Physicist Gene Jablonowski and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) James Justice participated in the Enrico Fermi II Ingestion Pathway Exercise (IPX). The exercise was comprised of both a tabletop and a field component focusing on the activation and deployment of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) and Advisory team to a radiological release from the Fermi II reactor located in Monroe, Michigan. The play focused on initial plume phase evacuations and the subsequent ingestion phase analysis requiring the monitoring and sampling of that plume to delineate extent of contamination to assist the State of Michigan in issuing evacuation, relocation, food embargo, and any other applicable orders. Resource deployment was simulated and live played by field crews collecting samples for submission to State laboratories for analysis and real time monitoring by land based crews as well as fixed wing assets from the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). Participants included U.S. DOE, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and the State of Michigan with representatives from various departments.

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Gene Jablonowski (312-886-4591)

Region 5 Level A Exercise and Hurricane Coordination Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio

On May 22-23, 2006, U.S. EPA Region 5 conducted a Level A Exercise at the Environmental Response Team-National Decon Team facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. The exercise included Region 5 On-

Scene Coordinators (OSCs), and Environmental Response Team (ERT) and National Decon Team staff. May 22 included classroom lectures on National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) air modeling, Area Rural Access to Emergency Services (RAES), and Rapid Assessment Tools. May 23 included equipment lectures and a Level A exercise with 24 participants. On May 24, a Hurricane Coordination Meeting was conducted with Regions 3, 4, and 5. The Hurricane Coordination Meeting reviewed Hurricane Katrina response lessons learned and the 2006 Concept of Operations.

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Oil Pollution Act Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises, Southeast, Michigan

During the week of May 22, 2006, Sheila Calovich and Alex Tzallas of Emergency Response Branch #1, and Mike Beslow of Emergency Response Branch #2 conducted Oil Pollution Act (OPA) Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises in southeast, Michigan. Facilities that were visited include Delta Fuels, Novi terminal; RKA Petroleum, Romulus; Exxon Mobil, Flint terminal; and Michigan Marine Terminal, River Rouge, Michigan. RKA Petroleum, Exxon Mobil, and Michigan Marine Terminal successfully completed the exercise and are exempt from unannounced drills for three years. Delta Fuels, Novi terminal, was not successful because they failed to call the National Response Center during the drill. Ms. Calovich and Mr. Tzallas also inspected Comprehensive Environmental Solutions in Dearborn, Michigan.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

U.S. Coast Guard PREP Drill, Cleveland, Ohio

On June 6-7, 2006, Sheila Calovich and Ann Whelan of Emergency Response Branch #1 (ERB#1) served as evaluators for the U.S. Coast Guard Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) drill conducted in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Calovich evaluated Unified Command exercise play and Ms. Whelan evaluated the Operations Section exercise play. Evaluation materials were presented to the U.S. Coast Guard to be included in the final exercise report. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joe Fredle (ERB#1) served on the exercise design team for the drill.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Training Course, The Nuts and Bolts of Brownfield Redevelopment, Cleveland, Ohio

On June 5-9, 2006, and over the last eight years, Region 5 has put on an annual Brownfields training course focused on local governments. Over four and a half days, this course walks the participants through each aspect of brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, starting with site identification and selection, proceeding through site characterization and cleanup, considering sustainable redevelopment, and developing a financial pro forma to support the redevelopment. Hands-on exercises are a key component of this course, including site visits and real site information.

This year Region 5 entered into partnership with the Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center (GLEFC) at Cleveland State University and with the Northeast Midwest Institute (NEMW). The course was hosted at Cleveland State and was extremely well attended (47 students). GLEFC and NEMW performed admirably. U.S. EPA employees (Karla Auker, Brooke Furio, Mark Durno, and Jim Van der Kloot) participated in the instruction of the course.

The Nuts and Bolts of Brownfields will also be offered in Kansas City later in the Summer of 2006.

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